

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 - 15, 20 - 24, 26, 27, and 29 - 34 are pending.

A drawing objection was raised. Figs. 1 and 3 were cited for requiring a legend indicating that the figures show prior art subject matter.

Claims 9 and 27 were cited for minor informalities.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18-21, 26 and 28 under stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 5,394,387.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Lin, U.S. Patent No. 5,673,242.

It is noted with appreciation, however, that claims 4, 7, 9, 15, 16, 22, 25, and 27 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 9 and 27 have been amended to correct the cited minor informalities.

Figs. 1 and 3 have been amended to include a "PRIOR ART" legend.

As to the allowable subject matter, the following amendments have been made:

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 11

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Accordingly, claim 16 has been canceled.

Claim 20

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 25. Accordingly, claim 25 has been canceled.

Claim 29

New claim 29 incorporates the subject matter of claims 1, 4, and 10. Claims 1 and 10, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 29 recites "I/O (input, output)

request” in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 29 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Independent claim 10 has been canceled.

Claim 30

New claim 30 incorporates the subject matter of claims 1, 7, and 10. Claims 1 and 10, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 30 recites “I/O (input, output) request” in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 30 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 7.

Claim 31

New claim 31 incorporates the subject matter of claims 11, 13, 15, and 17. Claims 11 and 17, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 31 recites “I/O (input, output) operation” in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 31 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 15, which depends from claim 13. Independent claim 17 has been canceled.

Claim 32

New claim 32 incorporates the subject matter of claims 11, 16, and 17. Claims 11 and 17, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 32 recites “I/O (input, output) operation” in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 32 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 16.

Claim 33

New claim 33 incorporates the subject matter of claims 20, 22, and 28. Claims 20 and 28, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 33 recites “I/O (input, output) request” in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 33 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 22. Independent claim 28 has been canceled.

Claim 34

New claim 34 incorporates the subject matter of claims 20, 25, and 28. Claims 20 and 28, respectively recite read and write operations. Claim 34 recites “I/O (input, output)

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request" in place of the individual read and write operations. Claim 34 also includes the allowable subject matter of claim 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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